

Minnesota DTTP Goes Full Throttle

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Minnesota has plenty to brag about: It is the birthplace of masking tape, Cream of Wheat, Bisquick and the bundt pan; it hosts the world's first enclosed shopping center and the country's largest retail complex; and it is home to nine innovative Distributive Training Technology Project (DTTP) multimedia classrooms. In fact, DTTP is flourishing in the state. New and ongoing activities range from military training and readiness to summer youth programs - and there is much more on the horizon.

The Minnesota National Guard's recipe for success is not complex, but the results are deeply satisfying. Phil Stephan, the state's full-time Distance Learning Point of Contact for DTTP, attributes Minnesota's success to several key ingredients. "First, we have significant top-down buy-in and use," he said, "starting with COL William Hose, chief information officer of the Minnesota National Guard, who has become our champion. We also have a motivated group of Site Administrators who work extremely hard to promote the project within the Guard and their communities."

In recent months, the Minnesota Guard has leveraged DTTP resources to support the upcoming mobilization of 1,500 soldiers; unite deployed soldiers with their families using video-teleconferencing technologies; inspire and energize new enlistees awaiting basic training by providing access to military correspondence courses; enhance the Minnesota National Guard's Command and Control capabilities; provide NASA educational programming to more than 200 young people at a summer camp; and help employers and employees bridge cultural and lingual gaps.

Future activities include a pilot to pair Minnesota students with their counterparts in the United Kingdom as part of a collaborative learning program, a repeat of the successful summer-camp sessions, and a partnership with Lake Superior State University to offer two- and four-year nursing programs via distance learning.

"DTTP in Minnesota is going full throttle," said MAJ Stephan Picard, Chief, DTTP Policy & Liaison. "Under COL Hose's direction, Phil Stephan and his team of Site Administrators are working hard to advance the project and engage in new, innovative, and exciting activities such as the UK education partnership. The state is definitely one of the pace-setters."

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